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HOMEMAKERS' CHAT

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Subject: Care of the Washing Machine - Information from home electrification specialists, of the United States Department of Agriculture

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If your washing machine doesn't work well in the middle of a nice Monday morning, whose fault is it? You can blame all sorts of people...including the manufacturer, the salesman, or even your husband.

But if you're really honest...you'll admit that any machine runs well only when it receives continued good treatment. That usually lets the manufacturer and the salesman out.

What about your husband? If he's the rare, mechanical type...who checks the washing machine frequently...you're lucky. But honestly...isn't it usually the homemaker herself who keeps electrical appliances running smoothly?

It is in most homes...and home electrification specialists of the Department of Agriculture have some tips to help homemakers keep their washing machines in good working order.

One of the most important things you can do, they say, is to leave your machine in good shape after each washing.

If hard water leaves a deposit on the tub...rub it clean with a cloth that has been dampened in vinegar water. Four tablespoons to the pint is a good solution. Don't use harsh abrasives...they're hard on the tub.

Then wipe the wringer rolls with a damp cloth and dry them thoroughly...and be sure to release pressure on the rolls when they are not in use.

Be sure to drain all water out of the hose...and out of the tub...and leave the top off...or slightly ajar...so the tub won't get musty.

Some kind of cover for the entire machine is desirable to prevent accumulation of dust and grease...but if this isn't possible...at least cover the wringer.

It's also a good idea to wipe the cord with a damp cloth and dry it carefully...for grease and dirt injure rubber. But be sure the cord is disconnected before you clean it.

Then there are two things a homemaker should do periodically -- tighten all bolts and screws in the frame...and oil the motor, wringer parts, and casters.

Read the instruction book the manufacturer gave you when you bought the machine...and follow those directions closely when you oil your machine.

And always...when it is not in use...keep the machine stored in a clean, dry place.

2-1-46

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